

COVID Guidance

- The Pathway School is committed to providing in-person academic programming, for our students and families who choose it, so long as we can provide a safe learning environment for students and staff.
- [Worldwide](#) and [domestic data](#) increasingly suggests that schools are NOT hot spots for coronavirus infections. [Children may also be less prone to infection](#), and [less infectious than adults](#) infected with COVID-19. Generally speaking, [recent studies](#) suggest that the [risk in schools is related to the number of cases in the community](#).
- We use the following metrics to inform decision-making around reopening for in-person learning:
 - [CDC Guidelines for Schools](#)
 - PA Department of Education [Guidance for PreK-12 Schools](#) and [Level of Community Transmission Table](#)
 - [PA Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
 - [Montgomery County Office of Public Health](#)
 - Our ability to staff individual programs and classrooms.

However, we reserve the right to make decisions in the best interest of our students and staff, in the event of high rates of community transmission.

- Pathway has worked diligently to promote the recommended measures to prevent infections:
 - consistent and correct use of masks,
 - physical distancing, including reassessing the number of people that can safely be in each classroom,
 - regular hand-washing,
 - cleaning and disinfection,
 - staying home when sick,
 - improved ventilation, including UV filtration, for when we cannot leave windows open, and
 - contact tracing.
- We have also added the following measures to protect students and staff:
 - Daily health screenings,
 - Limiting visitors to campus,
 - Restricting off-campus programming.
- Upon reopening, Pathway will also provide [bi-weekly COVID-19 testing for staff and students](#).

- More information on vaccinations will be available shortly. However, [even when vaccinated, it will be important to continue to follow the preventative measures listed above.](#)

These measures will not only reduce transmission of the coronavirus but also will likely mitigate the impact of other respiratory infections during the winter season. ***Ultimately, the level of safety within our school depends on our adherence to these measures.***

Exposure Guide

Even with these preventative measures in place, there remains the likelihood of positive cases at our school. We have put together a guide for common scenarios based on a number of resources ([CDC](#), [PA Department of Health](#), [PA Department of Education](#), [NPR](#)). Click on the link referencing your specific situation to follow the guidance.

- **Positive case:** You are a Pathway employee who has tested positive for COVID-19 and/or have symptoms of illness.
 - **Confirmed Positive:** You are a Pathway employee who has tested positive for COVID-19 and is experiencing illness as a result.
 - **Presumptive Positive:** You are a Pathway employee who is experiencing symptoms of illness (e.g., fever, fatigue) and have gotten a COVID-19 test, but have not yet received test results.
 - **Symptomatic:** You are a Pathway employee who is experiencing symptoms of illness (e.g., fever, fatigue) but has not yet tested positive for COVID-19.
 - **Asymptomatic:** You are a Pathway employee who has tested positive for the COVID-19 but are not showing any symptoms or signs of illness.
- **Direct exposure:** You are a Pathway employee who has been exposed to people with known, suspected, or possible COVID-19.
 - **Close Contact:** You were within 6 feet of the identified individual for a total of 15 minutes or more, with or without a mask.
 - **Distant Contact:** You had passing or limited contact with the identified individual, for less than 15 minutes or maintained a distance of 6 feet.
 - **Symptomatic Student:** Your student arrived at school and does not feel well or is presenting symptoms of illness.
- **Secondary exposure:** You are a Pathway employee who was in contact with someone identified to be a close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
 - **Sustained Secondary Exposure:** You were in close contact with someone (e.g., same room for the entire school day) identified to be a close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

- **Limited Secondary Exposure**: You had passing or limited contact with someone who had some contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- If you have questions about taking PTO time relative to COVID-19 exposure or illness, **[consult this spreadsheet on Staff Scenarios and Procedures](#)**.

References

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